

INTERFACE

Newsletter of the Mi Computer Club



April, 1983

The big news this month is (finally!) that the MiCC Bulletin Board is back on-line - a year, almost to the day, since the original club board commenced operation. Its first few days were notable for crashing software and difficult logons, but those immediate bugs were quickly ironed out.

We must apologise, however, to those who did try to log on in the first few days and discovered the problems.

The biggest was a problem with the communications supervisor, which would often not reset itself properly because of the combination of programs we were running.

The result was that people were immediately dropped down to CP/M command level, where all commands were disabled.

They couldn't do a thing - how frustrating! It wasn't even easy to log off cleanly, so they just had to hang up and hope the bulletin board would go away. Urk. We noticed one even tried "DESTROY" as his last command before exiting, which suggests he was far from happy...

The next problem was the fact that our logon routine favoured foundation members - a member number greater than 999 wasn't fitting into the test string, so those members were rejected. Talk about user-unfriendly!

Those problems have had their immediate fixes, and the basics of the bulletin board are now up and running relatively smoothly. By basics we mean the message functions - public notices, advertising, meeting details and private mail. The other, more advanced features are in the test phase, and will be implemented within the next four to eight weeks. They include detailed on-line help, downloading of "Pocket Programs" from Your Computer magazine (plus, a little later, other public domain software) and the MiCC on-line product ordering system.

Logging On

We have avoided sending out documentation because we regard all the software as still in a test phase - hopefully, current members will see their role as one of assistance, rather than as being "guinea pigs". We have substantial changes planned for the log-on, so don't get too set in your ways.

Currently the log-on is partly a duplication of the old system, so it is covered by your current documentation: to LOGON? you answer MICRO, and to PASSWORD? you answer BOARD. The new part is ID-CODE?. This ID-Code is your member number, followed by a dash, followed by up to six alphanumeric characters. This was to allow a user-changeable password which, for initial logons, is set as the first six letters of your surname as it appears on your mailing label.

ENQUIRIES:

Phone: (02) 662-8888, ask for
Mi Computer Club

Mail: P.O. Box 21, Waterloo
N.S.W. 2017

Norma Jackson: Club correspondence
Order and subscription queries.

New Members

We have around 30 new members whose applications have long been processed, but who still don't have logon details. That's purely because we are waiting for the system to take shape before we have documentation to send.

They can, however, log on immediately using the procedure outlined above, as only the product ordering system will require them to know their Board Numbers (a valid board number is checked internally before users are allowed to log on, but these have been allocated).

Visitors

Visitor access will be allowed for all club members on a limited basis. They will be able to log on up to five (we may extend that to 10 later) times to have a look around - more or less a "try before you buy" system.

They will not be able to send or receive mail or place notices, however - only to view what is there. We feel this is only fair considering other board members have paid to join, without even the chance to try the board first.

Joining Up - A One-Time Fee

Joining the Bulletin Board is simple for club members - just send in a one-time fee (there are no annual or on-going use charges) and you're on, for as long as you remain a member of the club. The fee covers our administration costs and the costs of producing and mailing documentation.

At the moment the fee remains at \$20 - but that's only to encourage those of you thinking of joining to do so. It will rise soon, so don't say you weren't warned! (But we will leave it for two or three months so you can have time to 'test-drive' it and decide.

Product Super-Specials!

We're trying to clear our cupboards of some excess stock, so here's your big chance to save some dollars with some super-special prices.

This is a while-stocks-last offer relating to current stock only - our purchase price has risen twice since some of these items were bought in. We're re-stocking, and new items will cost us more than we're selling many of these for:

ITEM	CURRENT RETAIL	SALE PRICE	No. IN STOCK
For Apple:			
Digitek 128K RAM	\$750	\$550	1
Microsoft Multiplan	\$378	\$295	2
Microsoft Time Manager	\$235	\$145	2
Microsoft TASC (Applesoft Compiler)	\$265	\$165	3
Olympic Decathlon	\$ 52	\$ 21	8
Microsoft RAMcard	\$156	\$120	5
Screenwriter II	\$175	\$125	1
TG Joysticks	\$ 78	\$ 59	8
OCS7728 Parallel Printer i/f	\$148	\$ 99	3

ITEM	CURRENT RETAIL	SALE PRICE	No. IN STOCK
Others:			
Microsoft BASIC-80 (8-in CP/M)	\$506	\$395	1
4-Voice Music (Sorcerer)	\$ 75	\$ 40	1

Letters

AS PRESIDENT of the newly formed CBM/VIC Users Group NT, I would like to have the club affiliated with Mi-Computer Club. I would appreciate it if you could let me know of the details you would require and the procedure involved.

The club has been formed mainly to cater for VIC20 users, and the few CBM users in the Darwin area.

IAN DISS
Arula, NT

Until we arrange more staff to co-ordinate such things, affiliation is something we prefer to keep in the "things-to-do" basket because we feel you wouldn't get any real benefit from it. However, we do have a policy of making products, T-shirts and the like available to "friendly" clubs for distribution to their members. So far there hasn't been enough member interest in MiCC chapters and club affiliations for us to do further development work on the concept.

Devonport Computer Interest Group

THIS GROUP will hold its first meeting on Monday 18th April at a time and place to be notified in the local paper.

Anybody interested in computers in any way will be welcome. If there is enough demand, special interest sub-groups will be formed.

For further information contact John Stevenson, RSD 422, Sheffield, 7306, or phone (004) 92-3237.

Tandy Products

I AM A member of the Mi-Computer Club. In your latest catalogue you seemed to have missed out on the TRS-80 and System 80 for software. I hope you will fix this up.

PETER ENDEAN
Miranda, NSW

Unfortunately, it seems member interest in these products has been non-existent. Your letter is the first sign of life from Tandy/System 80 owners in months. If other members are interested in seeing these products back in the catalogue they should voice their opinion, and we'll fix it...

Classifieds

Wanted: Anyone interested in exchanging programs either on disk or tape for use on a Commodore 4032/8032. Phone Tony (02) 524 6869 I(a/h) or (02) 5160033 ext 7912 (b/h).

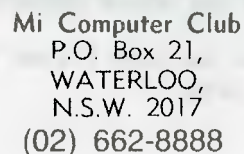
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\$9 anywhere	\$20 to \$39.99	\$4.75
in Australia	\$40 to \$99.99	\$5.75
	\$100 and over	\$6.75

Final Total \$ _____

My cheque for the final total of \$_____ is enclosed. Signature _____

OR charge to my Bankcard



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